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Ixcatec language

Ixcatec, or *Xwja*, is a language spoken by the people of the Mexican village of Santa María Ixcatlan, in the northern part of the state of Oaxaca. The Ixcatec language belongs to the Popolocan branch of the Oto-manguean language family.

Ixcatec	
Xwja	
Region	Oaxaca, Mexico
Ethnicity	Ixcatecos
Native speakers	8 (2008)[1] to 190 (2010 census)[2]
Language family	Oto-Manguean ▪ Popolocan ▪ **Ixcatec**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`ixc`
Glottolog	`ixca1245 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ixca1245)`[3]

190 people reported speaking the language in the 2010 census,[2] but according to the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, there were only 8 speakers of the language in 2008.[1] The small number of current speakers is the result of a steady decline over the last 60 years, which can be attributed to anti-illiteracy campaigns by the Mexican government that discouraged the use of indigenous languages, migration from the area to the cities, and the small initial population of speakers of the language.[4]

Notes

1. Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, "SÓLO QUEDAN OCHO HABLANTES DE XWJA O IXCATECO EN SANTA MARÍA IXCATLÁN, OAXACA", Press Release, May 27, 2008
2. INALI (2012) *México: Lenguas indígenas nacionales* (http://site.inali.gob.mx/pdf/libro_lenguas_indigenas_nacionales_en_riesgo_de_desaparicion.pdf)
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ixcatec" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ixca1245). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Monaghan, John D. and Jeffrey Cohen, "30 Years of Oaxacan Ethnography," in "Supplement to the Handbook of Middle American Indians, Volume 6: Ethnology," Victoria R. Bricker, John D. Monaghan, Eds. University of Texas Press, 2000.

References

Suárez, Jorge A. (1983). *The Mesoamerican Indian Languages* (https://archive.org/details/mesoamericanindi0009suar). Cambridge Languages Surveys. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-22834-4. OCLC 8034800 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/8034800).

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This page was last edited on 7 September 2019, at 21:04 (UTC).

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